

## State Commission

The Volunteer Louisiana Commission supports quality programs that meet the needs of Louisiana's citizens and promote an ethic of service. Volunteer Louisiana is charged in the state's Emergency Operations Plan with coordinating volunteers statewide in times of disaster and administers AmeriCorps and Volunteer Generation Fund grants from the Corporation for National and Community Service. The Commission's 15 AmeriCorps State programs engage 1,000 members in service across 22 Louisiana Parishes in the critical need areas of education, economic opportunity, environmental stewardship, and healthy futures. Since 1994, Volunteer Louisiana has supported 21,626 AmeriCorps members who have provided more than 8.6 million hours of community service to Louisiana with an economic impact of \$195 million. Those AmeriCorps members have earned more than \$41 million in Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards to help pay for college and eliminate student debt.

## AmeriCorps State

Project Homecoming, a faith-based community development organization, has 15 AmeriCorps members who help build resilient neighborhoods in greater New Orleans. Project Homecoming helps create a culture of care in communities through safe, durable, affordable, and environmentally sensitive construction; community-driven partnerships; service; and fellowship. The AmeriCorps members serve in a home rehabilitation program that helps low-income Orleans Parish residents whose homes were damaged in Hurricane Katrina. In the past year, the members managed more than 1,200 volunteers on project sites throughout Orleans Parish. These volunteers served more than 33,000 hours rebuilding homes for low-income families. The Project Homecoming AmeriCorps members and volunteers completed the renovation of 15 homes, which allowed 37 people to move into safe, healthy, affordable housing.

The University of Louisiana at Lafayette AmeriCorps program is the only university-based AmeriCorps program in the state. Its 45 AmeriCorps members meet critical community needs in education and economic opportunity and support the program's mission "to develop civic responsibility and leaderships skills in college students through service." In the past year, 30 of the members served more than 7,000 hours with 207 kindergarteners through 8th graders at J.W. Faulk Elementary and New Hope Tutoring Center and improved the academic engagement of more than 87 percent of the students. In the same service year, 15 AmeriCorps members completed construction of four homes, rehabilitated 16 homes, and built 11 wheelchair access ramps with Habitat for Humanity and Rebuilding Together Acadiana. In total, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette AmeriCorps members helped 80 people move into safe, affordable housing.

## AmeriCorps National

Baton Rouge and New Orleans have 117 City Year AmeriCorps members who serve full-time at 12 schools, helping more than 5,540 students at greatest risk of dropping out. City Year AmeriCorps members work alongside teachers, using research-based tools to improve students' attendance, behavior, and performance in math and English. The members also lead afterschool programs and school-wide initiatives to improve school culture. In Baton Rouge, 81 percent of students tutored by City Year AmeriCorps members increased their score on benchmark assessments; the average increase was 28 percent. In addition, 95 percent of principals agree the members foster a positive environment for learning. In New Orleans, 88 percent of students tutored in math increased their test scores, 80 percent of students tutored in literacy increased their test scores, and 87 percent of teachers said that City Year AmeriCorps members improved order in the classroom and the overall focus of their students.

New Orleans has the second highest rate of new HIV infections in the nation. To address the HIV epidemic in their community, five full time AIDS United AmeriCorps members provide direct services, including HIV testing and counseling, health care access, prevention outreach, prevention education, and emotional and social services to at-risk populations. Since 2009, members in New Orleans have informed almost 2,500 people of their HIV status through HIV rapid testing and counseled them on their risk behaviors. Members have reached almost 9,000 people through community outreach and education, providing information about HIV/AIDS risk reduction, community resources, and how to access medical care. AIDS United AmeriCorps members have mobilized almost 500 volunteers in the New Orleans area.

The Urban League of Greater New Orleans has four AmeriCorps members who serve through its Healthy Living Peer Educators Program. The AmeriCorps members reach out to participants, help them enroll in health insurance, and teach preventive health education workshops. In November 2015, the AmeriCorps members partnered with Walgreens Pharmacy to host a free flu vaccine event at First Emanuel Baptist Church. The members helped the pharmacist, Tony Morgan, sign residents up for flu vaccines.

Youth Volunteer Corps has three AmeriCorps members who serve Baton Rouge. The Youth Volunteer Corps AmeriCorps members have engaged 122 youth, including 16 disadvantaged youth. These youth volunteers gave 2,384 hours of service on 112 projects for 24 agencies in their community, including Charlie's Place, Healthy BR & Baton Rouge's Mayor's Office, BREC, Families Helping Families, and Mid-City Redevelopment Alliance.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

The Louisiana CASA Association has 15 AmeriCorps VISTA members who build capacity and have met the target of managing 75 community volunteers within the association's host sites. The association brings the VISTA members together every month to share experiences and best practices and plan events for the VISTA Program. The program has provided Darkness to Light trainings, hosted membership programs and stakeholder presentations, and completed grant writing trainings. The association also became an intermediary VISTA sponsor in 2014 so it could reach out to more agencies to advocate for youth.

Mid-City Redevelopment Alliance provides homebuyer education and counseling, home improvement and weatherization services, real estate market analysis, and small business development, free of charge, to a 1,000-block area in mid-city Baton Rouge. Forty percent of the people who benefit from the alliance's programs are economically disadvantaged. Through the service of five AmeriCorps VISTA members assigned to the alliance, it has exceeded many of its goals. It reached 150 percent of the goal for community volunteer service hours, 333 percent of the goal for cash resources brought in, and 1,326 percent of the goal for in-kind resources. The alliance also reached 167 percent of its goal for reaching new community beneficiaries. The project partnered with JPMorgan Chase to identify blighted neighborhoods that needed reinvestment and to work with property owners to develop plans to benefit surrounding low-income neighborhoods. Over half of the identified properties have made progress through this initiative.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

Two AmeriCorps NCCC teams partnered with New Orleans Habitat for Humanity for a Build-A-Thon honoring the 10th anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. New Orleans Habitat for Humanity has been working since 1983 to support hard working, low income families, helping them build and finance new and safe, affordable homes. For the Build-A-Thon, the NCCC teams prepped ten new home construction sites. To prepare the ten lots, one team built walls, installed floors, and creating signage in partnership with over 150 volunteers. Throughout the project, members unloaded daily shipments of supplies on the various project sites. The shipments had been organized by the other team at the main office. This team kept inventory of all supplies and helped warehouse transport tools to the worksites. Some members also helped with the three hospitality tents. Members successfully completed all of their assigned A Brush with Kindness projects.

In partnership with the Louisiana Office of State Parks, an AmeriCorps NCCC team rebuilt a fishing pier, made camp facilities ADA-accessible, and corrected erosion on roads in Lake D'Arbonne State Park. NCCC members replaced the framing, decking, and railing of the pier and parts of the dock. Once they finished the pier, the team built a sidewalk that connected two handicap-accessible campsites to a main pavilion in the campground that was not previously accessible. Members also corrected erosion along the roads that bordered 42 campsites and the main pavilion on the campground. The team installed granite gravel along the roads and campsites to help with drainage. Thanks to the work of the NCCC team, the park is more accessible and safer for visitors.

## Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

CENLA Area Agency on Aging won a competitive Foster Grandparent Program grant in Rapides Parish in 2012. Ten of the Foster Grandparents work with disabled youth in the Louisiana State system. The rest of the Foster Grandparent volunteers serve in the public school system and Head Start centers to help at-risk children in seven parishes.

## Senior Corps RSVP

The ULM @ Monroe RSVP Program has \$113,383 in federal funding and 500 volunteers who serve four parishes. The program provides 100 volunteers who help 160 2nd and 3rd grade students improve their reading skills through the Volunteer Reading Initiative. The children are in the six lowest-performing schools in high poverty areas. More than half of the RSVP volunteers in this initiative are veterans or spouses of veterans. The RSVP Program has a vet-to-vet mentoring program, and, with the university, is producing a professional video on how the community can help returning soldiers. ULM's CERT Program provides a horseback search and rescue operation in which RSVP volunteers are trained to help the Office of Homeland Security during emergencies and disasters. Volunteers in Police Service uses trained RSVP volunteers to patrol the community and increase police presence. They use patrol cars to canvas neighborhoods and schools zones, check in on the elderly, and follow up on requests for additional patrols. This deters vandalism and helps with public safety.

## Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

New Orleans Council on Aging Senior Companion Program serves 116 seniors who would otherwise be at risk of being institutionalized. The program operates at a lower than expected cost and reaches more seniors than expected. The Senior Companions participated in the American Red Cross's Holiday Mail for Heroes. They made 1,629 holiday cards for veterans, military installations, and military families. The volunteers collected 800 non-perishable food items for St. Peter Clavor Church to give to homeless and underserved people in the community. In honor of National Veterans Awareness Month, the Senior Companion Program helped collect 150 items for the Winter Coats and Clothes Drive for Veterans. The volunteers also worked with RSVP volunteers from the same grantee to collect over 800 books for the September 11th National Day of Service Book Drive, and distributed them to the KIPP NOLA Colton School, a pre-K through 8th grade school. The grantee has secured a \$20,000 donation from the Honorable Judge Piper Griffin with the New Orleans Civil District Court Division I.

## Social Innovation Fund

Louisiana nonprofits funded by the Social Innovation Fund (SIF) are working to improve health in the justice-involved community and increase employment opportunities for Louisianans. The SIF is investing \$219,917 to expand the impact of three nonprofit organizations in Louisiana. The SIF transforms lives by using evidence to find what works and make it work for more people. The SIF Classic and SIF Pay for Success programs harness the expertise of grant-making intermediaries to identify, evaluate and expand effective nonprofits serving low-income communities.

## Volunteer Generation Fund

Through a Volunteer Generation Fund grant from the Corporation for National and Community Service, Volunteer Louisiana features an online volunteer management system which lists thousands of volunteer opportunities daily throughout the state and in all 64 parishes. The system also serves as the statewide hub for coordinating spontaneous, unaffiliated volunteers in times of disaster in accordance with the state's Emergency Operations Plan. Through the Volunteer Generation Fund, Volunteer Louisiana directly engages more than 20,000 volunteers each year and supports quality volunteer projects, particularly those in rural parishes, through targeted mini-grants. Activities included the Katrina 10 Day of Service with more than 10,000 volunteers and 15 upcoming projects serving 25 rural parishes that will engage an additional 6,600 citizens in service.